



**STEVE HARDWICK**  
... bitter

# Hardwick 'sacked'

STEVE Hardwick, the controversial Wycombe defender sent off at Cheltenham last month, is to be released by the club.

The club committee took the decision and informed him by letter last week that he was being given the statutory 14 days notice before release from his contract.

Wycombe are not believed to be asking for a transfer fee even though he would be likely to fetch a four figure sum. In the past Slough Town have shown an interest in the player, who joined Wycombe nearly three years ago.

## No appeal

A highly talented centre-half, Hardwick has been in disciplinary trouble before. But the matter came to a head in the first round of this year's F.A. Trophy when he was sent off for throwing a punch.

At the time Wycombe were drawing 0-0 with Cheltenham but the ten man team eventually won through. Afterwards manager Mike Keen publicly expressed his dissatisfaction with Hardwick and said that disciplinary measures would follow.

The club committee took the ultimate decision to release him from his contract — so in effect Hardwick has been 'sacked'.

Hardwick has every right to appeal against this decision, but on Saturday, bitterly said that this was unlikely.

Asked whether he wanted to play for Wycombe again, he replied: "After being treated like this would you?"

Hardwick, who was upset that the club had not told him of the committee's decision face to face, yesterday ended a two week suspension given for five bookings in the past 12 months.

Last week the club learned he had been banned for a further month from next Monday for his sending off at Cheltenham. So he would have missed several vital league games in any case.

Among the crowd at Gander Green Lane on Saturday, was Tony Price, who left Wycombe two weeks ago after moving to South London. Price has been training with Sutton and seems set to join the top Isthmian League club.